

Date:

Your re:

Our ref:

Address

DRAFT

Dear

**Re: Consultation on Proposals for Angling and Additional Bridle Routes at Bateswood Local Nature Reserve, Halmerend.**

Local community groups have approached the Council to request additional recreational facilities in Bateswood Local Nature Reserve in Halmerend.

The requests involve allowing controlled angling on part of the large pool and an additional bridle route which loops around the pool and rejoins the existing bridle route.

The requests from the community are illustrated on the attached plans.

Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council has resolved to consult with local residents, groups and organisations prior to making a decision on whether or not to agree the principle of allowing the additional activities to take place.

The council has publicised this consultation process in the local media and is also consulting ward members, local residents, community groups and organisations with an interest in the site.

We thought that you and/or your group may be interested in providing comments on the new ideas, put forward by local community groups:

- The principle of creating a new circular horse route around the pool linking to the existing bridle route.
- The principle of allowing controlled angling on a designated section of the pool.

### **Background**

The current recreational use of the site includes activities such as small scale illicit angling, horse riding, both on and off the designated bridle route, walking, running, cycling, nature watching and dog walking.

The Council has received requests from angling and equestrian groups requesting the use of Bateswood for these recreational activities. A petition was presented by a local ward member on 31 October 2008, signed by 186 petitioners from the locality requesting that the Council consider the use of the pool at Bateswood for fishing.

### **Horse Route**

A feasibility study in relation to the potential to create an additional circular bridleway has been undertaken. It appears that it would be feasible to establish a circular route around the site, separated from the more sensitive nature conservation areas, subject to riders adhering to the routes provided.

Progression of this initiative would be subject to sourcing funding to implement the scheme and then, if funding is secured, further detailed consultation with residents and appropriate stakeholders would take place.



Yours sincerely

**Jennet Hough**  
**Landscape Officer**

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